

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**EDWARD E. McNALLY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

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U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MAKES CRIME PAY IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Nearly \$70 Million Collected in 2005

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that his office made crime pay its debts to the United States in the recently completed fiscal year. Federal fiscal year 2005 ran from October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005. During that period, the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois collected a total of sixty-eight million, four hundred eighty-nine thousand, nine hundred five dollars and forty-two cents (\$68,489,905.42). This amount consisted of ten million, nine-hundred thousand, three hundred thirty dollars and fourteen cents (\$10,900,330.14) in criminal collections and fifty-seven million, five hundred eighty-nine thousand, five hundred seventy-five dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$57,589,575.28) in civil collections.

The amount collected was far in excess of the office operating budget and allowed the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Illinois to operate at substantially in the black for the fiscal year. United States Attorney McNally pointed out that for every dollar his office spent on collection activities, the office was able to return ninety-nine dollars and ten cents (\$99.10). The criminal collections consisted of restitution to crime victims as well as fines and special assessments. The civil collections consisted of restitution in civil fraud cases, mortgage foreclosures, defaulted student loans, bankruptcy and other debts due the United States.

The collections in criminal cases other than restitution are turned over to the Crime Victims Fund which is administered by the United States Department of Justice for the benefit of victims of crime. The restitution is paid directly to the crime victims to compensate them for their losses.